4th December 1954]

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister has not answered the question, because the hon. Member did not put it. It seems the hon. Member Sri Balakrishnan was not following the proceedings clearly. The Hon. Minister wanted to make a statement on an important subject and he made it. If anybody wants to put supplementary questions, let him give notice of a fresh question. If the Hon. Minister has no objection, let a short notice question be put. I have no objection to place it before the House on Monday."

Fixation of quotas for the export of agricultural produce.

* 32 *Q.*—Sri K. PARTHASARATHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are making any periodical representations to the Government of India regarding the fixation of quota for export of agricultural produce from this State; and

(*b*) whether the Government have constituted any representative body to advise the Government in the matter?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir. Quotas for export of agricultural produce are fixed by the Government of India. In fixing quotas, they usually consult the State Government for advice. Such periodical advice is being given by this Government in respect of groundnut, onions, chillies and tamarind.

" (*b*) No, Sir. The Government usually act on the advice of the Director of Agriculture and the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies)."

Sri K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Are the Government aware that the price of jaggery has fallen considerably, that the prevailing price does not even meet the cost of cultivation and that the feeling is that the fall in price is due to the accumulation of large stocks in this State? Have this Government made any representation to the Central Government to increase the quota for export of jaggery from this State? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have received such representations and they are looking into the matter."

Sri N. MAHALINGAM :—" Are the Government of Madras in receipt of any memorandum from Members regarding the need for persuading the Central Government to permit the export of groundnut as the price of groundnut has got reduced from Rs. 22 per bag of 80 lb. in 1953 to Rs. 10 per bag in 1954? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have received representations and they are taking necessary action."

Sri V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" Are the Government aware of the present policy of the Central Government

[4th December 1954

to import jaggery and brown sugar into this State? As this policy will very adversely affect the growers of sugarcane, will this Government try to protect the agriculturists in this respect?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I am sorry, Sir, I have no information about what has been referred to by the hon. Member regarding the proposed import of brown sugar and jaggery."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"கனம் மந்திரி விவசாயப் பொருள்கள் இந்த ராஜ்யத்திலிருந்து ஏற்றுமதி செய்யப்படுவதுபற்றி அரசாங்க அதிகாரிகளால் சொல்லப்படும் யோசனை மட்டும்தான் ஏற்கப்படுமென்றார். இதனால் இந்த ராஜ்யத்திலிருந்து விளை பொருள்களை ஏற்றுமதி செய்யும் விவசாயிகளும், வியாபாரிகளும் அதிகமாக பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். ஆகவே அவர்களைக் கொண்ட ஒரு கமிட்டியை ஏற்படுத்தி, அவ்வப்போது ஆலோசனை கேட்பதற்கு சர்க்காருக்கு என்ன கஷ்டம் என்பதை மந்திரியார் கூறுவாரா ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"The actual decisions regarding exports are taken by the Government of India. This Government now and then advise the Government of India either of their own accord or on a reference from the Government of India. We take into account the prevailing prices of the various products while deciding whether exports could be permitted or not. It is for ascertaining the prevailing prices that we refer to our officers."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"இந்த ராஜ்யத்திலிருந்து வெளி மாகாணங்களுக்கு விளை பொருள்களை ஏற்றுமதி செய்வதில் பலவகையிலும் அனுபவம் மிகுந்த பல வியாபாரிகள் இருக்கும்போது, அவர்களுடைய ஆலோசனைகளைக் கேட்பதற்கும், மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கு யோசனை கூறுவதற்கும் உத்தியோகப் பற்றற்ற ஒரு கமிட்டியை நியமிக்க இந்த சர்க்காருக்கு என்ன கஷ்டம் இருக்கிறது என்றுதான் கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"When I mentioned 'prices', I meant the prices prevailing and also the quantity that would be required for meeting the requirements of the State. Even information regarding the quantity that would be required could also be got from the officers. I do not think, for purposes of ascertaining how much would be required or what the prices prevailing are, we need constitute an Advisory Council of non-officials."

11-10 a.m. SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—"Is it not a fact that a certain quota of agricultural produce had been fixed by the Central Government for export from the composite Madras State? Is it also not a fact that after the splitting up of the composite State into Andhra and Madras States, the Andhra Government scored a victory over the Madras Government in getting a larger quota to be exported from the Andhra State than the quota fixed for the Madras State?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I do not know whether there is any scoring of victory by one over the other. But I may, however, tell the hon. Member, who I have no

4th December 1954]

doubt is anxious to have sufficient quantity of onion for his own consumption, that we have requested the Government of India to permit the export of 2,000 tons during this year."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is there any Special Officer empowered to watch the market trends of agricultural produce so that this Government may advise the Central Government as and when necessary with respect to the export quotas? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, we have the Director of Statistics who is particularly looking into this."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Will Government consider the urgent necessity for pressing upon the Central Government the need to export a large quantity of pepper which is largely produced in Malabar and South Kanara to countries like China, which need it? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, the Government are looking into the matter."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Of the total quantity of export what is the quantum of export allotted to groundnut produced in the State? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Sri N. MAHALINGAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that since the export duty is high, and since most of the produce has been covered by the exporters the profit is being completely taken away by the exporters from the agriculturists? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member refers to export duty. It is a Central subject."

Sri N. MAHALINGAM :—" We have made representations that the export duty should be reduced."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Whatever it is, it is a Central subject. If the Hon. Minister wishes to answer the question, I have no objection."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is a matter for the Government of India to decide."

Sri V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" In answer to my previous question the Hon. Minister stated that the Government had no information. May I request the Hon. Minister to make enquiries about the statement made by the Central Minister for Agriculture regarding the policy that is pursued by the Government of India in the matter of sugar and running of sugar mills in the State? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" It is only a request to the Hon. Minister and not a question."

Sri A. SAMBASIVAM :—" இந்த ஏற்றுமதிப் பொருள்களின் விலை அடிக்கடி மாறுவதற்கு காரணம் என்ன என்பதைத் தெரிவிக்க வேண்டும். உதாரணமாக மிளகாயை விவசாயிகள் வியாபாரிகளுக்கு விற்றபிறகு ஏற்றுமதி அனுமதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதனால் வியாபாரிகள் அதிக லாபம் அடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆதலால் விவசாயப் பொருள்களுக்கு ஒரு விலை நிர்ணயிப்பதுபற்றி அரசாங்கம் அவசரமான நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think it is advisable for the Government to follow one particular policy all through. It all depends on seasonal conditions and so many other factors."

Sri C. KANDASAMY :—" மத்திய சர்க்காருடன் விவசாயிகள் சம்பந்தமாக ஏற்பாடுகள் செய்திருந்தபோதிலுங்கூட நடைமுறையில் பல வற்றின் விலைவாசிகள் வீழ்ச்சியடைந்துக்கொண்டிருப்பதை இன்றைய அரசாங்கம் கவனிக்காது இருக்கிறது. அதைத் தடுப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள் ?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, it is a larger question and I would like to have notice."

Sri K. PARTHASARATHY :—" In view of the fact that the announcement of export quota by the Central Government is not done at the proper time, the middlemen and merchants reap the full benefit and not the agriculturists. To prevent this, will the Madras Government constitute a committee consisting of consumers, agriculturists and producers to make representations to the Central Government regarding the proper time of announcement of export quotas?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would invite the hon. Member to meet me and discuss with me all these matters sometime later. I shall look into the matter."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" ஏற்றுமதி விவகாரம் மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய அதிகாரத்திற்குட்பட்டதென்பது தெரியும். அப்படி இருந்தும் கூட இந்த ராஜ்யத்திலுள்ள விவசாயிகள் ஏற்றுமதி விவகாரத்தில் பாதிக்கப்படுவதால் அதுபற்றி இந்த அரசாங்கம் மத்திய அரசாங்கத்திற்கு ஆலோசனை கூறுமா ?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There should be no difficulty about it. We have been doing it."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that large quantities of a medicinal root known as 'agil pori' are being exported to other countries, but that the agriculturists and producers do not get a reasonable price? Will the Government be prepared to take adequate steps to see that they get a reasonable price?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like the hon. Member to tell me what specific steps he would himself suggest so that we can examine whether they could be taken."

Sri S. RADHAKRISHNAN :—" விலைவாசிகள் சம்பந்தமாக சென்னை அரசாங்கத்திற்கு ஆலோசனை கூற ஒரு நிரந்தரமான குழு இல்லை என்று சொல்லப்பட்டது. அப்படியானால் தனிப்பட்ட ஸ்தாபனங்களாவது அவ்வப்போது ஆலோசனை கூற ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

4th December 1954]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. Member that we have been securing all necessary information in order to enable the Government to take up a definite stand whenever we have to advise the Central Government."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Have the Government received any representation regarding the export of tapioca which is produced in large quantities in Malabar and which is fetching only a very low price now? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not remember to have seen any representation. So I would like to have notice."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister will represent to the Central Government that whenever a producer wishes to export these commodities to foreign countries, he may be permitted to do it himself so that the entire profit may go to him instead of to the middlemen? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The selection of personnel is for the Government of India to decide."

Deaths due to sewer gas in the City.

* 33 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of people who died during the last 2½ years as a result of getting into the *sewage* pipes in the City?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Three, Sir."

Deaths due to sewer gas in the City.

* 34 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether one, Sanyasi, a mill worker, lost his life by asphyxia while attempting to rescue three municipal workers on May 30th, 1954, from being trapped in a cesspool at Madras; and

(*b*) the measures taken by the Government to prevent such dangers?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Corporation of Madras is bound to take the necessary measures to prevent such deaths and it has taken the following measures :

Sewers are provided with ventilating shafts at intervals for the escape of sewer gas. Before the thozhilalies are allowed to get into the manholes for cleaning or for removal of obstructions in the underground sewers, the doors of the manholes are first opened and sufficient time is allowed for the gas to escape from the manholes. The manholes on either side of the sewer length under operation are kept open during the period to facilitate the escape of poisonous gas freely. In addition, the thozhilalies are provided with